

REMARKS

Claims 19 and 21-28 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of June 14, 2005, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Interview Summary

Applicant's attorney wishes to thank Examiner Lewis for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview of September 2, 2005.

During that interview, claims 19 and 21-28 were discussed. Examiner Lewis said that the claim objections appeared to have been overcome, and that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 appeared to have been overcome by the amendments to the claims.

With respect to the art rejections, Examiner Lewis said that the amendments to the claims appear to have overcome the art rejections. Of course, Examiner Lewis will conduct his own search to ensure that there is no other pertinent art.

Claim Objections

Claims 19-28 are objected to because of informalities.

In accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions, claims 19-28 have been amended to overcome these objections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 28 has been amended to delete "the aperture or hole is self-opening."

Art Rejections

Claims 19-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson, II in view of de Saint Rapt.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Wilson II discloses a mask to which is attached a sealing means comprising a washer, threaded portion and sleeve. This sealing means is not at all similar to the sealing means of the mask of the present invention, which is an opening covered by elastic or flexible material, elastic or flexible material that is self-closing, an elastic or flexible flap over a hole or aperture, or a detachable flexible or elastic patch over a

hole or aperture. None of these features is disclosed in either Wilson II or de Saint Rapt.

De Saint Rapt discloses a feeding means for gas masks which includes a valve formed of a series of perforated rubber discs or membranes, the center of which is pierced by a hole of a diameter less than that of the supply tube. This mask must be maintained gas tight, unlike the mask of the present invention or that of Wilson II, both of which are made of filter material to filter particles but not gases from the wearer.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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